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CIO Charity Number 1193768

Full Time Permanent Pastor

Overview

Newtown Evangelical Church (NEC) is seeking a full time, permanent Pastor. This man will be an Employed Elder serving within our eldership.

Note: We are committed to having a plural eldership, but throughout this advert will follow the convention of using "Pastor" to refer to an Employed Elder who leads the work of the eldership.

Our current Pastor is due to finish serving in that role by the end of August 2027, due to health issues. If the new Pastor is available to start in the role prior to then, we believe it would be beneficial so that there could be some period of transition from one pastor to the other. We are looking for a man with some pastoral experience.

The current Pastor is open to leaving the church prior to summer 2027, and seeking to serve the Lord in some other capacity elsewhere, if the new Pastor is in post and he and the other elders feel this would be best for the church. He is open to continuing to serve part-time in some defined role after 1st September 2027, if the new Pastor and the other elders feel this would be best for the church.

We are flexible about the starting date for a new Pastor. It could be any time between now and 1st September 2027.

We currently also have an Assistant Pastor, who is due to retire on 31st March 2027 – when it is expected that he will remain in the church and continue to serve as an elder. Our two Pastors currently lead the church together with five other Elders. They are supported by a team of six Deacons.

When a new Pastor is in place and both the current Assistant Pastor and current Pastor have ceased to be employed by the church, we would hope to be in a position to employ another full-time Assistant Pastor, or other full time or part time staff. At various point in the past we have employed a part-time Children and Families worker, a part-time Women's Pastoral Worker, and a Ministry Trainee.

Our current membership is nearly 130, with Sunday morning congregations of around 150; evening congregations are about half that size.

We use the Teachers Main Pay Scale as a guide in the salary we offer. The precise salary would depend on experience. We do not offer accommodation.

Newtown is the largest town in Powys, with a population of about 11,500. The congregation are gathered from the town and the surrounding villages – an area with a total population of around 20,000.

Newtown

Newtown is situated in the upper Severn Valley. It was a traditional market town, and then in 1967 was designated a new town and a lot of light industrial units and housing estates were built which resulted in a substantial growth in the population and a much more, socially, mixed community. It still serves as a market town for the surrounding villages.

Newtown Evangelical Church

The church was formed in 1979, and the current building was erected in 1986. We are an independent evangelical church – in fellowship with both the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) and the Associating Evangelical Churches of Wales (AECW).

We are reformed in our understanding of salvation, and practise believers' baptism – though we do not make baptism by immersion a condition of membership.

We are conservative in our theology, but contemporary in our outlook and practise.

We are committed to a congregational approach to discerning the will of God, though we believe that this it is essential that the Elders take the lead in this process (seeking to reflect the approach in Acts 6).

Central to our Sunday gatherings – morning and evening - are expository preaching and corporate prayer.

We run a mixture of home groups and central meetings as our main midweek meetings.

We have been privileged to support several members of the church who have served the Lord overseas - both long term and short term - and have a strong commitment to world mission.

The church has been blessed with gifts that have enabled us to have, for many years, a very substantial work among children and young people in our local community, and a large parents and toddlers' group. These are some of many evangelistic activities that take place throughout the year.

The church membership and congregation are spread across the spectrum of ages. The congregation has everything from babies to those in their late 90s.

In God's goodness, the church and congregation have grown substantially in recent years, and we are currently considering building an extension to our main auditorium.

God graciously enabled us to play a part in the planting of a church in the neighbouring town of Welshpool (Welshpool Community Church), and we actively seek to practically support the work of several small evangelical churches across mid-Wales and the Borders, with which we have excellent relationships.

We have a heart to train up elders and pastors – particularly for ministry in rural towns - and have recently had a Ministry Trainee working with us for two years. We would love to do this again.

The role of Pastor

A Pastor will be someone who meets the qualifications for an elder laid down in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, and who leads the church – in partnership with the other Elders – as Paul and Peter direct in Acts 20 and 1 Peter 5.

We strive to enable the Pastors (and the other Elders) to devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word as far as possible (Acts 6). To that end we seek to ensure that adequate administrative support is available for the Pastors. Currently this is provided by volunteers, but we are open to employing someone to fulfil this role in the future if that becomes necessary and financially possible.

We are committed to having a plural eldership, but, within that structure, the Pastor is expected to function as the leader of the Elders, and the leader of whatever staff team we have at any given time.

The two Pastors, oversee the delivery of pastoral care to the congregation.

Our current Pastor and Assistant Pastor each do about 40% of the preaching. The rest is done by our other five elders, other men who we are seeking to train up, and occasional visiting preachers.

Support for the Pastor

The Elders very much work as a team and are active in supporting one another. By God's grace, the congregation is loving and united, and has an excellent record of prayerfully and practically encouraging the Pastors and Elders.

The Elders meet together for prayer regularly, as well as for business meetings. The two Pastors normally pray together each morning.

The church is committed to honourably supporting the Pastor financially so that he can provide financially for his family and devote himself to the work without worrying about money.

The Pastor is expected to take a full day a week off. Annual leave is 5 weeks a year plus public holidays. We recognise that an essential qualification for the office of elder lies in the quality of a man's marriage and family life. Thus, we expect the Pastor to resist the temptation to "over-work" in a way that harms his family life.

A small book allowance is paid each month, and the church additionally contributes towards the pension of the Pastor.

Mileage costs are covered at 45p a mile (or whatever is the current approved rate).

Our Pastors are members of the local Fraternal – which currently meets five times a year in our building.

The church pays for the Pastor to attend two conferences a year.

Two of the non-employed Elders meet with the Pastor each year for an annual appraisal. A focus of this meeting is to seek to ensure that the Pastor has a reasonable workload and is adequately supported.

We do not expect the Pastor's wife (if he has one!) to play a unique role in the life of the church simply because she is "the Pastor's wife". We simply expect her to serve using the gifts God has given her to serve in the church, and to support her husband in the work God has given him. Our Pastors' and Elders' wives meet together from time to time to pray together – in recognition that their husbands' roles bring some distinctive pressures and needs. If it is feasible, we encourage the Pastor's wife to attend appropriate conferences for pastors' wives.

Application/Enquiries

Applications/Enquiries about the post can be made to newtownevangelicalchurch@gmail.com. If you wish to have an informal discussion about the post, please email the Pastor on this address to arrange a suitable occasion to do so.

We will deal with applications as and when we receive them.